



State of Utah

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March 25, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist *AB*

RE: Site Inspection, Hecla Mining Company, Escalante Silver Mine, M/021/004, Iron County, Utah

Date of Inspection: February 27, 2002
Time of Inspection: 4:00 to 4:15 p.m.
Conditions: Mostly clear, 40's
Participants: Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

To check whether the waste rock pile had been reclaimed.

Observations:

One of the gates was locked and one was open. There were a few vehicles parked around the buildings, but I wasn't able to find anyone.

The attached photographs show the condition of the waste rock pile. On the east side (Photo 2), there is an area that looks like it might have been graded and possibly had some soil applied at some time in the past, but the vegetation consists primarily of cheatgrass with some scattered rubber rabbitbrush.

Although this was my first time seeing the waste rock pile, it was clear the rest of the pile has not been graded, topsoiled, or revegetated. Most of the slopes, especially on the north and west sides, are nearly 1h:1v. I understood the operator was to have dug a trench from which to obtain soil and that part of the pile would be pushed into this trench. I found something of a trench on the north side of the pile (Photos 3 and 5), but it did not appear topsoil had been taken from this area. Also, I could not see that any of the waste rock material had been graded into the trench.

On the northwest corner of the pile, there was a windrow of brush with some soil (Photo 4). I do not know the origin of this material, but it did not appear to have come from any kind of trench, and it had not been spread over the pile for reclamation.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The waste rock pile still needs to be reclaimed.

jb

Attachment: Photos

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CC: Hecla w/photos

Photographs of Waste Rock Pile, Hecla Mining Company, Escalante Silver Mine, M/021/004,
Iron County, Utah, February 27, 2002



Photo 1.



Photo 2.



Photo 3.



Photo 4.

Page 3
February 27, 2002
M/021/004



Photo 5.

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